

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR ROCK/SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

JANUARY 2003



Starting in with data reported for 2003, industry employment data will use a different classification system known as the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Why is this important? The broad industry nomenclature will be similar to the older system (Standard Industrial Classification - SIC), but the sub-industries that make up these broader sectors will change. In addition, there will be new industrial categories as well. These changes will be so significant that one will not truly be able to compare data from the new system to the old. A major challenge presented, initially, will be that the NAICS system will only code the most current data and will not re-code estimates prior to 2003 to the new nomenclature for an undetermined amount of time. This will make historic analysis difficult. This new system will not affect any of the reported labor force (unemployment) data. The change to NAICS will be reflected in the February 2003 Workforce Observations publication.

Unemployment Rates Increase in December

December Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville-Beloit Metropolitan Area** increased 1.6 percent in December to 7.5 percent. However, the December 2002 rate was up only 0.1 of a percentage point as compared to the Janesville-Beloit Metro rate for December 2001.

In examining reasons why the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate grew in December, one reason that is apparent is that the metro area labor force grew by 1,600 yet the number of persons employed in the metro area stayed stagnant. In other words, many new entrants into the Rock County labor market did not find work and immediately joined the ranks of the unemployed. Rock County's retail trade employment level declined in December, contrary to the typical seasonal patterns. This is a preliminary indication that Rock County retailer's did not have a robust holiday shopping season.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Southwest Wisconsin increased 0.3 percentage points in December, to 5.0 percent. The Southwest Wisconsin unadjusted rate was up by 0.2 percentage points compared to last December, partly on the apparent weakness in the retail trade sector in the Southwest Wisconsin area. Only Green County reported a noticeable increase in retail trade employment in December.

Two counties in Southwest Wisconsin, Green and Iowa, have sizable catalog - direct retailer operations. While it would appear that Green County retailers had good holiday shopping sales this year, Iowa County retailers may not have been so lucky. Retail trade employment in Iowa County was down almost 100 in December, as compared to November.

Statewide

Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was estimated at 5.4, up three-tenths of a percentage point from November's final rate and a half percent

higher than the December 2001 figure. Statewide, the manufacturing sector, both durable and nondurable continues to struggle, with durable goods manufacturing decreasing by 1,700 jobs. Nondurable goods manufacturing experienced a decrease of 1,100 jobs.

National Bits

Regional and state unemployment rates were generally stable in December. All four regions of the nation

recorded little or no change from November, and 43 states registered shifts of 0.3 percentage point or less, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. The national seasonally adjusted jobless rate was unchanged at 6.0 percent in December.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville-Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: December 2002			
Civilian Labor Force	81,700	3,074.8	142,542
Employment	75,600	2,908.7	133,952
Unemployment	6,100	166.1	8,590
Unemployment rate	7.5%	5.4%	6.0%
Change from November 2002			
Civilian Labor Force	1,300	5.0	-191
Employment	-	-5.1	-273
Unemployment	1,300	10.1	82
Unemployment rate	1.6%	0.3%	0.0%
Change from December 2001			
Civilian Labor Force	1,900	73.7	228
Employment	1,600	54.8	-103
Unemployment	200	18.9	331
Unemployment rate	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

Labor Force and Employment Estimates for Rock / Southwestern Wisconsin (*not seasonally adjusted*)

December 2002

	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	25,000	19,600	16,300	7,400	8,400	80,200	156,900	3,050,615
Annual Percent Change	2.2%	0.5%	4.5%	3.5%	0.4%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%
Employed	23,900	18,700	15,800	6,900	8,000	75,700	149,000	2,899,977
Unemployed	1,100	800	600	500	400	4,500	7,900	150,638
Unemployment rate(%)	4.5%	4.2%	3.4%	6.5%	4.7%	5.6%	5.0%	4.9%

Non-Farm Place of Work Employment Data

Total, all industries**	19,570	16,300	13,410	3,690	5,990	70,940	129,900	2,856,000
Annual Growth Rate:	0.32%	-1.12%	2.84%	-0.75%	-1.47%	1.23%	0.77%	1.07%
Construction & Mining	600	520	540	180	170	3,220	5,230	122,900
Manufacturing	3,190	3,250	680	500	1,670	17,440	26,720	564,900
Durable	1,970	2,180	560	280	1,220	12,870	19,080	336,700
Nondurable	1,220	1,070	120	230	450	4,570	7,640	228,200
Trans & Public Utilities	620	460	290	190	180	3,620	5,360	132,200
Wholesale Trade	720	570	400	370	190	3,550	5,790	135,800
Retail Trade	3,860	5,040	7,960	530	1,280	13,300	31,970	521,600
FIRE	1,160	370	180	210	230	2,100	4,250	154,000
Services	4,100	4,080	1,770	560	1,020	18,580	30,100	798,000
Government	5,330	2,010	1,590	1,150	1,260	9,140	20,480	426,800

Change from November 2002

Civilian Labor Force*	-300	400	-200	-100	0	300	0	-5,481
Employed	-300	200	-200	-200	-100	0	-600	-16,715
Unemployed	0	0	100	100	100	300	600	11,234
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Total, all industries**	-100	410	-110	0	10	0	210	-14,000
Construction & Mining	-70	-30	-20	0	0	-20	-140	-8,140
Manufacturing	60	-10	-10	-10	30	-60	-20	-2,800
Durable	50	10	-20	0	10	20	60	-1,700
Nondurable	10	-20	10	0	20	-80	-80	-1,100
Trans & Public Utilities	10	40	-10	0	0	20	60	200
Wholesale Trade	0	10	0	0	10	-40	-30	700
Retail Trade	0	440	-90	0	10	-110	270	2,900
FIRE	30	-10	0	-20	0	0	0	100
Services	20	-30	-20	0	0	130	80	0
Government	-130	0	40	10	-20	100	-10	-6,900

Change from December 2001

Civilian Labor Force*	500	100	700	200	100	1,900	3,500	69,489
Employed	500	0	700	0	0	1,700	2,900	50,901
Unemployed	100	0	100	200	0	200	600	18,588
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	2.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Total, all industries**	60	-180	370	-30	-90	860	990	30,300
Construction & Mining	10	40	30	10	0	10	110	-2,500
Manufacturing	-80	-130	-10	-60	-120	-170	-590	-22,800
Durable	-130	-80	-10	-70	-190	-340	-830	-17,300
Nondurable	50	-50	0	30	60	170	240	-5,500
Trans & Public Utilities	-20	0	-20	0	10	80	50	-1,400
Wholesale Trade	20	-50	0	0	10	60	40	-1,700
Retail Trade	110	-60	260	-10	-10	-80	200	18,700
FIRE	40	-10	10	0	20	80	130	3,900
Services	40	70	60	40	20	790	1,000	23,300
Government	-40	-40	40	0	-10	100	50	13,000

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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